

F-2007-01830

The National Security Archive

**The George Washington University
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Washington, D.C. 20037**

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August 3, 2007

(b)(6)

Scott A. Koch
Information and Privacy Coordinator
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Re: Request under the FOIA, in reply please refer to Archive # 20071584CIA213

Dear Mr. Koch,

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), I hereby request all documents from January 1, 2006 to the present related to the presence of al-Qaeda forces in Helmand province (including the city of Kandahar) in Afghanistan. Please include in your search all estimates regarding the number of al-Qaeda members in the province or city of Kandahar and summary reports regarding the activities and strength of al-Qaeda in Helmand and Kandahar. Governor Assadullah Wafa announced on February 13, 2007 that there were hundreds of al-Qaeda fighters in Helmand.

If you regard any of these documents as potentially exempt from the FOIA's disclosure requirements, I request that you nonetheless exercise your discretion to disclose them. As the FOIA requires, please release all reasonably segregable nonexempt portions of documents. To permit me to reach an intelligent and informed decision whether or not to file an administrative appeal of any denied material, please describe any withheld records (or portions thereof) and explain the basis for your exemption claims.

As a representative of the news media, the National Security Archive qualifies for "representative of the news media" status under 5 U.S.C. Sec. 552(a)(4)(A)(ii)(II) and, therefore, may not be charged search and review fees. (See *National Security Archive v. U.S. Department of Defense*, 880 F.2d 1381 (D.C. Cir. 1989), cert denied, 110 S Ct. 1478 (1990)). This request is made as part of a scholarly and news research project that is intended for publication and is not for commercial use. For details on the Archive's research and extensive publication activities please see our website at www.nsarchive.org. Please notify me before incurring photocopying costs over \$100.

To expedite the release of the requested documents, please disclose them on an interim basis as they become available to you, without waiting until all the documents have been processed. If you have any questions regarding the identity of the records, their location, the scope of the request or any other matters, please call me at (202) 994-7000 or e-mail me at belias@gwu.edu. **Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Barbara Elias
Research Fellow

2007 AUG -3 AM 10:49

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FAX COVER SHEET

Date: August 3, 2007

To: Scott Koch -- Information and Privacy Coordinator

Organization: Central Intelligence Agency

From: The National Security Archive

Number of pages (including cover sheet) -- 2

If there is a problem with this transmission, please call us at 202-994-7000 as soon as possible.

Message: FOIA Request Attached
National Security Archive Number 20071537 CIA215

Thank you for your efforts in processing this request.